

[4 May, .2007]

RAJYA SABHA

amount of Rs. 340.00 lakhs was sanctioned in respect of these proposals and first installment of Rs. 160.00 lakhs also released in 2005-06.

Flood and drought loss in Kerala

3208. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of representations received from the Government of Kerala claiming compensation for agricultural loss due to floods and droughts during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the details of assistance sought, assistance approved and released in each case;

(c) the status of pending representations;

(d) whether Kerala Government has also sought assistance for revival of agriculture sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) For the drought of 2003-04, the Government of Kerala had submitted two Memoranda, one in January 2004 and the other in April, 2004, seeking assistance of Rs. 1359.03 crores and Rs. 2844.90 crores, respectively, from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), for drought relief. However, no assistance was released from the NCCF as the balance in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) account of the State was more than the amount approved by the High Level Committee (HLC).

In July, 2004, the State Government had submitted a Memorandum seeking assistance of Rs. 3847 crores for revival of Agriculture Sector, which included requirement towards input subsidy for damaged crops. A multi-disciplinary team had visited the State for assessment of requirements etc. Taking into account its recommendations and based on approval by the Prime Minister, Rs. 106 crores was released to the State from the NCCF towards input subsidy for damaged crops.

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is concerned with matters relating to floods. According to them, the State Government had sought assistance

of Rs. 196.40 crores from the NCCF for the floods of 2005. An amount of Rs. 17.94 crores from the NCCF was released during floods of 2005 on an 'on account' basis. However, based on the approval of the High Level Committee (HLC), an amount of Rs. 12.72 crores was identified as excess against the 'on account' payment. According to MHA, the excess amount is to be adjusted against the State Government's long-term requirement of funds. For the floods of 2006, as against the requirement of Rs. 149.08 crores from the NCCF projected by the State Government, no amount was released from the NCCF as 75% of balance available in CRF of the State for the instant calamity was more than the amount approved by the HLC.

Mainstreaming the Agricultural Technology Management Agency Model

3209. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how and where Government sanctioned amount of Rs. 2260 million for mainstreaming the Agricultural Technology Management Agency model in 252 districts during the Tenth Five Year Plan period, have resulted in an envisaged improvement for the benefit of farmers, especially the small and marginal ones;

(b) whether the streamlining has shown any specific improvement, both being cost-effective and time-effective; and

(c) if so, which are such districts in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Department of Agriculture & Co-operation, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India had launched the Centrally-Sponsored Scheme "Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms" based on Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) model in May, 2005 with the Tenth Plan outlay of Rs. 2260 million. 252 districts were targeted to be covered under the scheme during the Tenth Plan. The Scheme aims at promoting decentralized and farmer friendly extension system.

Salient achievements under the Scheme during the period May 2005 to March, 2007 are given below: